

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 /019 W

----- 051634

R 160630Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2542

INFO CINCEUR//ECJ4/7-SAO//

CSAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4064

FOR AF/C DIRECTOR CUTLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MMOL OCLR CG

SUBJ: DELAY OF MAC FLIGHT

1. INCIDENT WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR INTERESTS HERE OCCURRED MAY 13, WHEN, BECAUSE OF PERSONAL INTERVENTION FONMIN BULA, DEPARTURE EXTRA MAC FLIGHT WAS DELAYED APPROX 100 MINUTES.

2. MAY 13 EXTRA MAC FLIGHT WAS PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LONG-STANDING PROCEDURES. A "NOTICE OF OVERFLIGHT OR TECHNICAL STOP" WAS PREPARED IN THE EMBASSY (DAO) AND STAMPED BY THE DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON MAY 7. A COPY WAS GIVEN TO THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (REGIE DES VOIES AERIENNES) AND TO DEPT OF DEFENSE. IN THE PAST CIVIL AVIATION HAS NOTIFIED AIRPORT TOWER OF AIRCRAFT'S ARRIVAL.

3. MAY 13 FLIGHT ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE AND PARKED AT HANGER USED BY DAO SOME DISTANCE FROM PASSENGER TERMINAL. AS ENGINES WERE STOPPED FONMIN ARRIVED WITH UNIDENTIFIED ZAIRIAN OFFICIAL. HE STATED THAT GOZ HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN INFORMED OF PLANE'S ARRIVAL AND NO ZAIRIAN OFFICIAL AT THE AIRPORT COULD EXPLAIN WHAT PLANE WAS DOING IN ZAIRE.

4. FONMIN ASKED EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE ABOUT CARGO AND WAS TOLD IT WAS APO. FONMIN APPEARED SATISFIED WITH ANSWER BUT THEN
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STATED IT WAS IRREGULAR FOR AIRCRAFT TO DISCHARGE CARGO WITHOUT

ZAIRIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIAL BEING PRESENT, ALLEGED SIMILAR SITUATION
COULD NOT EXIST IN US.

5. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE INFORMED BULA THAT US-GOZ BILATERAL
AGREEMENT EXISTED AUTHORIZING DUTY FREE ENTRY OF APO AND CARGO
INTENDED FOR MAAG (ZAMISH). BULA SEEMED TO BE UNAWARE OF AGREEMENT
AND SAID HE WOULD SUMMON CHIEF OF STAFF OF ZAIRIAN AIR FORCE
FOR EXPLANATIONS. AT ONE STAGE BULA ASKED TO SEE MANIFEST, WAS
SHOWN IT, AND HE DECLARED THAT COMPUTER PRINTOUT UNINTELLIGIBLE TO
HIM.

6. SITUATION BECAME CONFUSED WHEN BULA DEPARTED AIRPORT GIVING
GOZ OFFICIALS IMPRESSION AIRCRAFT COULD NOT DEPART WITHOUT HIS
PERSONAL CLEARANCE. CHARGE, WHEN APPRISED OF PROBLEM, TRIED TO
CALL BULA BUT WAS TOLD THAT HE WAS IN LARGE MEETING. (WE BELIEVE
THIS TO BE THE CASE). CHARGE THEN TALKED TO CONTROL TOWER AND
ASSURED TOWER CHIEF THAT PROPER CLEARANCE HAD BEEN RECEIVED. AT
THIS POINT CLEARANCE TO DEPART WAS GIVEN.

7. COMMENT: BULA'S SUDDEN INTEREST MAY HAVE BEEN SPARKED BY GOZ
CUSTOMS WHO HAVE LONG BEEN UNHAPPY WITH US PRIVILEGE OF LOADING
AND UNLOADING LARGE QUANTITIES OF CARGO INTO MILITARY AIRCRAFT
WITHOUT GOZ CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OR EVEN PRESENCE OF GOZ OFFICIALS.
TO OVERCOME SENSITIVITIES, EMBASSY ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO WORKED
OUT SYSTEM WHEREBY MANIFESTS WOULD EX POST FACTO BE SUBMITTED
FOR CLEARANCE, A PROCESS THAT TAKES SEVERAL WEEKS AT BEST. IT IS
NOT CLEAR WHETHER BULA'S PROBLEM IS ONE OF CUSTOMS OR WHETHER HE
INTENDS TO CHANGE EXISTING CLEARANCE PROCEDURES.
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